

SECRET

Chrono

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Security Committee

SECOM-D-259
5 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members, Security Committee

FROM :

Chairman

SUBJECT : Transmission of Classified Data by Mail

1. A possible compromise of sensitive compartmented information was recently reported which involved the theft of material sent via registered mail. Since, in the course of this inquiry, the loss of documents sent via registered mail had also been forwarded missing and not recovered, it was suggested that an examination should be made of the use of postal channels for the transmission of classified data.

2. The Security Committee has been requested to undertake such a study. This review should indicate the extent to which the mails are now used for transmission of classified documents, existing limitations on the use of the mails, possible alternative means of transmission, and the advantages and disadvantages of such. The basic questions should address risks involved in the present means of transmitting classified information via the mails, whether there are feasible alternatives, and the additional costs such would involve.

3. This topic will be an agenda item for our 7 September 1977 meeting. It would be particularly helpful if at this time you would have available your Agencies' current usage and limitations on the use of the mails for the transmission of classified materials, as well as the losses experienced so that a risk factor may be evaluated.

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